

## Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 L-03 TRSE-00

OMB-01 AID-05 STR-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OES-07

DODE-00 /054 W

-----126749 270407Z /16

R 261500Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4624

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0995

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, OTRA, BU, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER AND JOINT  
STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURE

REF: A) SOFIA 0603; B) STATE 068803; C) STATE 068796

1. EMBASSY HAS STILL NOT RECEIVED OFFICIAL REPLY TO INVITATION FOR JUNE VISIT OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TO US, NOR RESPONSE ON PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT. INVITATION, AND DRAFT OF PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT, BOTH SUBMITTED TO DEPUTY MINISTER ISHPEKOV ON APRIL 3 (REFTEL A, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTELS B AND C).

2. SHAKEUP OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RELATED GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS (SEE SOFIA 0821) HAS UNDOUBTEDLY HAD IMPORTANT EFFECT. SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS FAVOR A VISIT BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND HAVE INFORMALLY RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A LATER VISIT, PERHAPS IN THE FALL. AS EARLIER REPORTED (SOFIA 0793), THEY BELIEVE IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE NEW MINISTER TO VISIT THE US IN JUNE. THEY HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, BEEN IN A POSITION TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO OUR INVITATION. SIMILARLY, THE SUGGESTIONS OF A POSSIBLE VISIT LATER IN THE YEAR ARE UNOFFICIAL SOUNDINGS.

3. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ANDREY LUKANOV, WHO IS  
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RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE WEST, RECENTLY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT, AND WAS THEREFORE AWARE -- IN FACT "RESPONSIBLE" -- FOR THE FACT THAT WORK ON IT HAD NOT PROCEEDED. WITHOUT DISCUSSING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSED STATEMENT, HE INDICATED THAT DESPITE THIS DELAY HE BELIEVED AGREEMENT COULD BE

REACHED IN SHORT ORDER. HE THEN SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE IF FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE VASIL TSANOV COULD BE THE ONE TO VISIT THE US IN JUNE, AND TO SIGN THE JOINT STATEMENT AGREEMENT AT THAT TIME. (HE NOTED THAT, AS FAR AS PROTOCOL WAS CONCERNED, TSANOV HAS BEEN GIVEN CABINET RANK-- AS REPORTED IN SOFIA 0821). LUKANOV SEES SUCH A VISIT BY TSANOV AS MUCH MORE USEFUL AND IMPORTANT THAN WAITING FOR SOME LATER VISIT BY THE NEW MINISTER.

4. GIVEN THE SITUATION DESCRIBED IN THE PARAGRAPHS ABOVE, EMBASSY REQUESTS AUTHORIZATION TO MODIFY THE EXISTING INVITATION FOR JUNE VISIT TO ALLOW FOR ACCEPTANCE BY MINISTER TSANOV. WE BELIEVE SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL IN ITS OWN RIGHT, AND IT WOULD PROVIDE LEVERAGE TO GET DISCUSSIONS UNDER WAY ON A JOINT STATEMENT. AN INVITATION TO MINISTER STOICHKOV MIGHT BE CONSIDERED FOR SOME LATER TIME, BUT A TSANOV VISIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE SHOULD PROBABLY BE GIVEN PRIORITY.  
GARTHOFF

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** PROPOSED VISIT OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER AND JOINT STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURE  
**TAGS:** EAGR, OTRA, BU, US  
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